

Message Text

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43

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 /053 W

----- 014546

R 020937Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4030

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO USERDA GERMANTWON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7512

ERDA FOR FRIEDMAN

SEOUL FOR LAWLESS

TOKYO FOR ERDA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, JA, RP

SUBJECT: REGIONAL REPROCESSING SE ASIA

REF: TOKYO 6997

1. WHILE DE GUZMAN WAXED ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT REGIONAL REPROCESSING IN SEASIA DURING HENoch VISIT BASIS WAS PAPER DELIVERED BY COMMISSIONER LIBRADO IBE OF PHILIPPINE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION. PAPER WAS GIVEN AT WORKSHOP ON ENERGY, RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN MANILA, MARCH 4, 1975.

2. BRIEF PERTINENT QUOTES FOLLOW:

QUOTE THE PRESENT GENERATION OF COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS OF THE LWR TYPE UTILIZE ENRICHED URANIUM FOR NUCLEAR FUEL WHILE THE HWR TYPE USES NATURAL URANIUM FUEL. THE PROBLEM PRESENTED BY ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL, AS COMPARED WITH THE MORE
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COMMON NATURAL URANIUM MATERIALS, LIES NOT SO MUCH ON

THE ENRICHMENT PROCESS BUT RATHER ON THE VERY FEW FOREIGN ENRICHMENT FACILITIES AVAILABLE AND THEIR PRESENTLY LIMITED PLANT CAPACITIES. UNLESS MORE FUEL ENRICHMENT PLANTS ARE ESTABLISHED ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS AND PLANT CAPACITIES INCREASED TO SUPPORT ANTICIPATED WORLD-WIDE DEMANDS, FUEL ENRICHMENT SERVICES COULD ALSO BE USED TO FORCE CRISES ON THE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL. IT WOULD BE PROFITABLE AND BENEFICIAL FOR ASEAN MEMBERS TO HAVE REGIONAL COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR UNDERTAKINGS -- ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL FABRICATION PLANTS AND FACILITIES ON A REGIONAL BASIS, WITH PLANT CAPACITIES DESIGNED TO MEET AT LEAST THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MEMBER NATIONS. UNQUOTE

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IBE IS A PROMINENT FIGURE IN PHILIPPINE ATOMIC POWER DEVELOPMENT, HIS QUOTE THINKING OUT LOUD UNQUOTE SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AS DEFINITIVE PHILIPPINE POLICY. BEFORE A REGIONAL PROGRAM WOULD GET FULL GOP SUPPORT THE IDEA WOULD HAVE TO BE VETTED BY CABINET OFFICIAL CONCERNED AND, NATURALLY, PRESIDENT MARCOS. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE IBE'S IDEA HAS NOT GOTTEN BEYOND THE WORKSHOP.

4. IF DESIRED, EMBASSY COULD MAKE LOW KEY APPROACH TO IBE FOLLOWING HIS RETURN IN EARLY JUNE.
PURNELL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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